

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

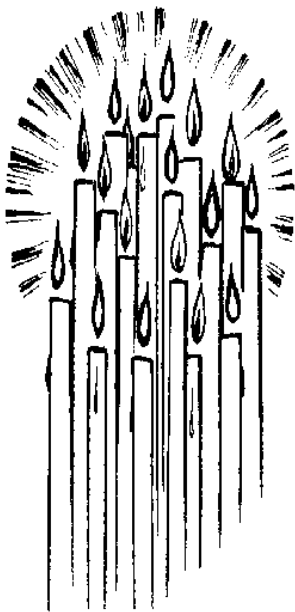
The Fourth Sunday of the Ordinary Season
January 29th 2017



A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE GENTILES...

Every evening in the Church's last prayer of the day, Compline, more commonly called Night Prayer, a canticle is recited from Saint Luke's Gospel. The words of the canticle are those spoken by Simeon, an elderly and devout man, when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, forty days after his birth. Simeon acclaimed the infant Christ as the "The Light to enlighten the Gentiles".

On the 2nd of February every year - the fortieth day after Christmas and Thursday of this week - the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple is celebrated. This feast is sometimes known as Candlemas, since on it, from around the Tenth century, candles for use in the Church and the homes of the faithful are traditionally blessed on this day. Why?



Apart from their practical use, essential in the days before electricity, candles have always had a strong symbolic value: they are used in the liturgy to represent Christ, the Light of the world, "the Light no darkness can overpower" (John 1,5). In addition to this they are also a sign of festivity and celebration, and a mark of reverence for God's presence. The Church states that they should always have at least a percentage of beeswax.

The most prominent and important candle in any Church is the Paschal Candle. Blessed at the Easter Vigil, and present beside the baptismal font throughout the year, it is used at Baptism - the child's father lights a Baptismal candle from it and is entrusted with the duty of passing on of the light of faith; and at funerals as a sign of hope in the resurrection.

The other candle present in all Catholic Churches is the red coloured Sanctuary Lamp. It burns day and night, to indicate the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Blessed candles are used at the altar during Mass, Benediction, Vespers, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament...; at all the sacraments except Penance; in processions as a sign of rejoicing: at the beginning and end of Mass, before the Gospel, and at the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.

It is customary for every Catholic home to have at least two blessed candles for use when the Blessed Sacrament is brought to someone sick or housebound, for the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick, to burn in the presence of a corpse - as a mark of vigil and respect - and at times of danger, blessing or family prayers.

Fr. McGachey

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tonight at 6pm

It is a beautiful way to conclude a Sunday afternoon. Please join us if you can.

SCHEDULE FROM MONDAY 30th JANUARY 2017 in the Parish Church

HOLY MASS - 10am Monday-Saturday

HOLY MASS - 1pm Monday-Thursday - this resumes on Monday

HOLY MASS - Sundays Vigil 5pm, 9am and 11am

CONFESSIONS - Monday-Thursday 1.45pm-2.15pm;

Saturdays after 10am Mass and 4.15pm-4.45pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

10.45am-3.30pm Monday-Thursday

CHURCH CLOSING - Monday-Friday, 3.30pm

THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE - It is the fortieth day after Christmas, and is traditionally the day for blessing candles for use in the Church. The blessing of candles and a short procession will take place at the 10am and 1pm Masses. The following Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th February - the blessing and sale of candles for use in our homes will precede the 5pm, 9am and 11am Masses. It is traditional for every Catholic household to have at least two blessed candles.

THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - The monthly Mass in honour of Saint Peregrine resumes tonight at 7pm. He is the patron saint of those suffering from cancer and any other serious illness. During Mass an individual blessing is given with the Saint Peregrine oil and at the conclusion of Mass there will be an opportunity to venerate the relic of the Saint.

FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY - The Feast of St. Blaise, the 3rd century bishop and martyr. He is traditionally believed to intercede in all cases of throat illnesses. The traditional individual blessing of throats, will be given on Friday morning after 10am Mass. Also because most of you will not be able to attend Mass on Friday, I would propose to offer the Blessing of Throats after Mass on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th February.

NEXT SATURDAY - THE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA - Confessions 9.15am, Rosary 9.30am and Holy Mass 10am. Because of a Wedding here next Saturday, the First Saturday Tent of the Divine Mercy will take place in the Glass Chapel from 2pm.

VISITS TO THE SICK AND SCHOOL - My thanks to Deacon Jim who has covered these for me this past week while I have been struggling to shake off the flu. I hope to be back visiting again in this coming week.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - The Children's Liturgy Team could be doing with some extra help - because of the good numbers that attend every week. No previous experience is necessary. If you think you might be able to help, please speak to either Father McGachey or Deacon Jim in the first place. Or speak to one of the helpers after Mass today in the sacristy.



SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2017

FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

HOLY MASS

with the Sacrament of the Sick
at 1pm in the Parish Church

Light refreshments will be served in the Xavier Centre
afterwards

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel from
10.30am until 4pm

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK - A special collection will be taken up at all Masses on Sunday 25th February to help support the work of SCES (The Scottish Catholic Education Commission).

SISTERS OF SAINT ELIZABETH - A Russian Orthodox Community of nuns in Minsk, Belarus, will be here on Thursday 2nd February at the 10am and 1pm Masses - they will be selling religious arts and crafts to help sustain the orphanage they run for over two hundred children in their own country. They would be grateful for your support.

CALENDAR - **Tuesday** is the feast of **St. John Bosco**, the founder of the Salesian Society (named in honour of St. Francis de Sales), and of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians. He devoted himself to the welfare of young boys and girls, hence he is sometimes called the "Apostle of Youth". He had no formal system or theory of education, rather his methods centred on persuasion, an authentic religious spirit, and love for young people. **Thursday** is the **Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple** - the fortieth day after Christmas. It is sometimes called Candlemas - see above. **Friday** is the memorial of **St. Blaise** - see above.

THE XAVIER CENTRE - To make bookings or enquires about the Xavier Centre contact 07581239872.

MOTHERWELL DIOCESEAN PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA - To celebrate 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions, a pilgrimage led by Bishop Toal has been planned for 3rd - 8th October 2017. Flights direct from Scotland, 3* hotel close to the Sanctuary, full Spiritual and Visit Programme. For further information contact: Anne Marie Cairns, Alba Tours by email amcalba@yahoo.co.uk or call 01698 262941.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - Your new rota is available from the sacristy. Please collect on today.

OUR LADY AND SAINT FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL - will join us for the 10am Mass on Friday of this week. Next Sunday, 5th February, the children and parents of the First Confession Class will join us at the 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

CONTACT US

CLERGY Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, Parish Priest
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CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATORS Elizabeth McMahon & Geraldine Battersby

SCOTTISH CHARITIES NUMBER SC 011041

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Baptisms are celebrated most Sundays of the year, except during Lent and on Easter Sunday, at 12.30pm.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE - At least six months' notice must be given of intention to marry.

Please telephone or email Father McGachey to make an appointment, or speak to Father McGachey or Deacon Jim after Mass at the weekend.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING People IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

SICK — Mary Hart, Aqueel Naseem, Susan Inayat, Julie Fleming, Nan Rooney, Patricia Griffiths, John Brady, Teresa Cochrane, Ellen Knowles, Michael Miller, Elenor Giuberelli, Margaret Curran, Michael Gaynor, John McKeown, Peter McKenna, Bill Daly, Nancy Buggie (Cullen), Ella Kearney, Leodhais MacDonald, James Hughes.

RECENTLY DEAD - Robert Braiden, Margaret Sloan, John McGhee, Mary Gray, Danny Tiffney, Thomas McManus, Michael Doyle, Margaret Moran, Jim Connor, Gerry Stewart, Thomas Karran, Briege Harrington, Tillie Shannon, John McKee, Ryan Gaitens Lochran, Cathie Hughes, Martin Keegans, Anthony Smith, Franco Gianotti, Mrs McCabe, Lisa Hawkins, Isobella Reynolds, Mary McCormack, James Queen, Martin Keegans, Margaret Coyle, Margaret Moran, Elizabeth Castles, Helen Mitchell, Elizabeth Smith, Nula Harvey, Ruby Bennett, Sadie Reynolds.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Lawrence Brown, Brown Family, Liam Currie, Foss Family, Elizabeth Cullen, Michael Quinn, Moran Family, George O'Donnell, Jacqui McClosky, Mary Service, Catherine Smith, John and Maureen Gillespie, Elizabeth Carr, Elaine Doak, Alice Leonard, Peter Byrne, Agnes Byrne, Henry Wood, Bessie Wood, Nett Wood, Margaret Wood, Isabel Wood, William Wood, Elizabeth Fullarton.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY - £1789

SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE UPKEEP OF YOUR PARISH